

**CLAIMS**

Now, therefore, at least the following is claimed:

1. 1. A system for automatically cropping graphical images, comprising:
  2. memory for storing digital data that defines a graphical image;
  3. an object detector configured to analyze said digital data and to automatically
  4. identify a portion of said digital data that defines an image of an object within said
  5. graphical image; and
  6. an image cropper configured to automatically crop said digital data based on a
  7. position of said object image within said graphical image, said image cropper
  8. configured to determine said position of said object image within said graphical image
  9. based on said portion automatically identified by said object detector.
1. 2. The system of claim 1, wherein said object image is an image of a person's face, and wherein said object detector is configured to search said digital data for portions that define facial images.
1. 3. The system of claim 1, wherein said image cropper is configured to crop said digital data based on a size of said object image.
1. 4. The system of claim 1, wherein said image cropper is configured to crop said digital data based on said position of said object image such that said object image is substantially centered between two edges of said graphical image.

1           5.     The system of claim 1, wherein said image cropper is configured to  
2     crop said digital data based on said position of said object image such that said portion  
3     is removed from said digital data that defines said graphical image.

1           6.     The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           an input device for receiving an input from a user; and  
3           a system manager configured to enable said image cropper based on said user  
4     input.

1           7.     The system of claim 1, further comprising an image capturing device  
2     configured to receive an image of a scene and to produce said digital data based on  
3     said image received by said image capturing device.

1           8.     The system of claim 7, wherein said image capturing device includes a  
2     lens for receiving said image of said scene and an image converter for producing said  
3     digital data based on said image of said scene.

1           9.     A system for automatically cropping graphical images, comprising:  
2           memory for storing digital data that defines a graphical image;  
3           means for automatically identifying a portion of said digital data that defines  
4     an image of an object within said graphical image; and  
5           means for automatically cropping said digital data based on a position of said  
6     object image within said graphical image, said cropping means configured to  
7     determine said position of said object image within said graphical image based on said  
8     portion automatically identified by said identifying means.

1           10.     The system of claim 9, wherein said object image is an image of a  
2     person's face, and wherein said identifying means is configured to search said digital  
3     data for portions that define facial images.

1           11.     The system of claim 9, wherein said cropping means is configured to  
2     crop said digital data based on a size of said object image.

1           12.     The system of claim 9, wherein said cropping means crops said digital  
2     data based on said position of said object image such that said object image is  
3     substantially centered between two edges of said graphical image.

1           13.     The system of claim 9, wherein said cropping means crops said digital  
2     data based on said position of said object image such that said portion is removed  
3     from said digital data that defines said graphical image.

1           14.     The system of claim 9, further comprising:  
2           means for receiving an input from a user; and  
3           means for enabling said cropping means based on said user input.

1           15.     The system of claim 9, further comprising a means for receiving an  
2     image of a scene and for producing said digital data based on said image received by  
3     said receiving means.

1           16.    A method for automatically cropping graphical images, comprising the  
2    steps of:

3           storing digital data that defines a graphical image;

4           automatically searching said digital data for a portion of said digital data that  
5    defines an image of a particular object;

6           identifying said portion based on said searching step;

7           determining, based on said identified portion, a position of said object image  
8    within said graphical image; and

9           automatically cropping said digital data based on said position of said object  
10   image.

1           17.    The method of claim 16, wherein said particular object is a person's  
2    face.

1           18.    The method of claim 16, wherein said cropping step is further based on  
2    a size of said object image.

1           19.    The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:  
2           substantially centering said object image between two edges of said graphical  
3    image via said cropping step.

1           20.    The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:  
2           removing, via said cropping step, said portion from said digital data that  
3    defines said graphical image.

1           21.    The method of claim 16, wherein said searching and cropping steps are  
2    automatically performed in response to said storing step.

1           22.    The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:  
2    receiving an input from a user; and  
3    enabling said cropping step based on said user input.